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Appl. No. 10/502409
Reply to Action dated Feb. 3, 2009

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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and reexamination of this application.

Claim 1 has been revised to include the features of allowable claim 16. Claim 16 has been canceled to track with the revision. Claims 18-23 are new. Claim 18 corresponds to allowable claim 8 rewritten in independent form, including the features of the base claim and intervening claim 6. Claim 19 corresponds to allowable claim 9, including the features of the base claim and intervening claim 6. Claim 20 corresponds to allowable claim 12, including the features of the base claim and intervening claim 11. Claim 21 depends on claim 20 and includes features of allowable claim 13. Claim 22 depends on claim 21 and includes features of allowable claim 14. Claim 23 corresponds to allowable claim 15, including the features of the base claim and intervening claim 11. There is no new matter. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, and 17-23 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Karkar et al. (US 5066859). Claim 1 has been revised to include the features of allowable claim 16. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable. Claims 3-6, 10, 11, and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1 from which they depend. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action stated that claims 8, 9, and 12-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 8 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 18. Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 19. Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 20. Claims 13 and 14 have been rewritten as claims 21 and 22, respectively. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form as claim 23. Features of claim 16 have been included into its base claim 1. Accordingly, all pending claims are allowable. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the claims.

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In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney-of record, James A. Larson (Reg. No. 40,443), at (612) 455-3805.

Respectfully submitted,

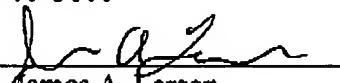
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Dated: May 1, 2009

By:


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